## **Snowmobile Grant Program**

## Environmental Analysis Guidelines

Two changes to our grant application procedures relative to environmental compliance were made in 2011. The first was a legislative action, in which HB 225 was passed and signed into law. This law exempts Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks from environmental compliance when we provide funding assistance to a 'snowmobile area operator.' The only exception is when a proposed grooming project has not been previously subjected to environmental review or when there is a change to the action or the use of the award. In short, most snowmobile clubs will not be required to submit MEPA or NEPA environmental analyses in applications to the Montana Snowmobile Program.

The other significant change to our application procedures regards the public comment process. We have consolidated the public comment period with one 30-day comment period conducted solely by Montana State Parks. The Parks Recreation Bureau will oversee this process.

If a snowmobile club does not make a change to its groomed snowmobile trail system, it will NOT need to submit an environmental analysis with its annual grant application. If a snowmobile club proposes to make a change to its groomed snowmobile trail system, it will need to submit an environmental analysis (see form posted on this Web site). However, because of the change in public comment requirements, the club will not need to run a public comment period prior to submission of the grant application and environmental analysis. Montana State Parks will conduct a 30-day comment period to ensure compliance with this MEPA requirement.